

April is the opening of our new membership year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, this is the last local newsletter you will receive. For those who have already renewed, YAY! I'm so glad that you're sticking with this awesome organization. Mensa has been such a rewarding organization for me to be a part of, and I am always happy to hear about how the connections made through Mensa have touched our individual members' lives. For those who have not yet renewed, I hope you will reconsider. If you have particular concerns about your renewal, please feel free to reach out to either myself or our national Membership Officer, Stephanie Thornton (membership@us.mensa.org) to let us know if we can help.

This April is the start of a new community service initiative: *Mensa Cares!* The idea behind *Mensa Cares!* is to encourage local groups to plan consider community service opportunities in their area for that April 29, or possibly another day in April. In the past several years, we have been receiving feedback that a growing number of our members are interested in volunteering in their communities with fellow Mensans. Groups can post details about their events on the national website at <http://bit.ly/2mD7IGC>.

Every two years, American Mensa holds elections for its national board of directors, the American Mensa Committee. These elections are also the opportunity for our members to vote for any bylaws amendments that have been placed on the ballot. Candidates are elected by a simple majority, but bylaws amendments require a two-thirds majority. The voting period will be 4/15/17-5/31/17.

I have been declared elected for a second term as Regional Vice Chair for Region 6 as I was the sole candidate on the ballot for this office. Similarly, LaRae Bakerink, Deb Stone, and Lisa Maxwell have been declared elected as Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively. On the upcoming ballot, you will be asked to vote for the offices of First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair, as well as several bylaws amendments. You can find more information about the candidates and the individual bylaws amendments online at <http://bit.ly/2ngFgrT>.

As with our election two years ago, the default for elections is electronic contact and voting. I encourage you to log on to the national website at <http://us.mensa.org/> and update your communication preferences so that we can ensure you receive all communications in a timely manner. If you have any issues logging in, please contact American Mensa at 800-66-MENSA or 817-607-0060 ext. 199 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday, or email membership@americanmensa.org.

As always, I ask that if you have any questions, concerns, or general comments, please let me know. I have created a simple online form where members can offer feedback on any topic, both by name or anonymously. You can find this form at <http://tinyurl.com/AML-R6-Feedback>. Of course, if you prefer, you can always contact me via email at rvc6@us.mensa.org, phone at 512-779-3945, or snail mail at 10518 Horseshoe Bend Dr, Houston, TX 77064.

Taz Criss